

REMARKS:

The Examiner is thanked for the Final Office Action of June 25, 2004, and for the indication the claims 4 and 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, the Examiner has indicated that the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a fibrous composite article comprising fibrous material having an average fiber length of less than about 2 millimeters (mm) and a cured, thermosetting binder resin selected from the group consisting of amino resins, modified amino resins, phenolic resins, modified phenolic resins, and mixtures thereof, wherein the fibrous material comprises a species selected from the group consisting of hemp hurd, kenaf hurd, vegetable bamboo culms, and mixtures thereof, the article having a density of at least about 45 lb/ft³.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 4, and canceled claim 4. Claims 2-3 and 5-30 all depend from amended claim 1. The Examiner indicated that claims 50-55 are allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present amendment places all claims in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all pending claims. It is believed that no fee is due with this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, then please debit Account No. 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



William C. Schrot
Registration No. 48,447
Attorney for Applicant

Liniak, Berenato & White, LLC
6550 Rock Spring Drive, Ste. 240
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 896-0600